

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-55 and 57-80.

REMARKS

In accordance with MPEP 201.06, I hereby certify that the copy of the parent application, serial no. 09/182,101 filed October 27, 1998 submitted herewith is a true copy of the original application.

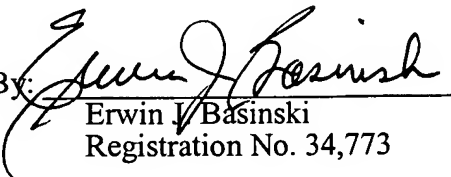
Claims 1-55 and 57-80 have been canceled. Accordingly, claim 56 is now pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration and allowance of this application is requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 410862000111. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: January 14, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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